



US Forest Service Rim Fire Recovery Weekly Update

General Background:

Date: July 22, 2014

The Rim Fire started in August 2013 and eventually burned 257,314 acres, including 154,530 acres on the Stanislaus National Forest. Burned Area Emergency Response work to address immediate hazards has been completed with the exception of storm patrol and monitoring. The Stanislaus National Forest has produced:

1. An environmental assessment (EA) for hazard tree removal along 194 miles of high use Forest Service roads, administrative and recreation facilities, and areas adjacent to private infrastructure. The EA includes 10,315 acres of NFS lands, of which 8,986 acres are along roads. The Rim HT EA Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact were signed on April 25, 2014. Implementing contracts for this project have been awarded.
2. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rim Fire Recovery Project proposes to lessen the potential for future catastrophic fire by reducing the fuel loading and capture the perishable economic commodity value of the fire killed trees through timber salvage. The proposed DEIS includes work on 44,461 acres of NFS lands, of which 16,315 acres are along roads. The Draft EIS 30-day public comment period ended on June 16, 2014. The draft EIS is available online at http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43033. A decision is scheduled for August 2014.

Update for the week of July 22, 2014:

Director:

- Working with the Forest Supervisor over ROD content.
- Writers are being brought on board to develop the ROD.

NEPA Coordinator:

- Assisting with the Project Record as well as the Forest Plan.
- Work continues on the response-to-comments for the EIS.

ID Team Lead:

- Finalizing the EIS is a top priority.
- Coordinating proposed research.
- The EIS response-to-comments project is 75-80% done.

Engineering:

- \$324,000 has been received and will go towards replacing seven restrooms, 32 bear boxes and various interpretive panels.
- No verified reports of flash flooding damage have been received.

Partnership:

- Working on an agreement with CCC for trail work.
- Partnership with the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office for use of inmate crews is moving forward.
- Long term planning with the Regional Office to assess recovery funding requirements through 2016.

Communications:

- Press requests have increased lately and are likely to continue as we approach the fire's anniversary.
- The second edition of the Rim Fire Recovery Update will be back from the printer on July 25 and will be distributed shortly thereafter.

Issues:

- Addressing concerns between San Francisco and FEMA to coordinate efforts.

Administrative:

- Hiring efforts continue.



Media requests have increased as we approach the one year anniversary date of the Rim Fire. The 3rd largest fire in the recorded history of California is still garnering national as well as international attention.

Questions about Rim Fire Recovery efforts? Please contact:
Rim Fire Recovery Information (209) 432-3709.